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New York Daily Tribune.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1859.

TO CORRESPONDENTS. No notice can be taken of Anonymous Communications. What-ever is intended for insertion must be authoritized by the name and address of the writer—not necessarily for publica-tion, but as guaranty for his good faith. We cannot undertake to return rejected Con Business letters for THE TRIBUNE Office should in all cases addressed to Horacs Greekey & Co.

The mails for Europe by the steamship Canada, from Boston, will close in this city to-day, at 14 o'clock, to go by railroad, and at 4 p. m. for the steamboat.

The Street Department comes out with a sharp reply to Corporation-Counsel Busteed, in regard to certain contracts heretofore in the newspapers. If these two branches of the City Government go to telling the truth of each other we may look for some valuable information.

The first of the Spring elections, by which the complexion of the next House of Representatives will probably be decided, takes place to-day. New-Hampshire should elect a Republican Governor and three Republican members of Congress. The result will be known to the readers of to-morrow moraing's TRIBUNE.

The Senate unanimously confirmed Mr. Robert McLane as Minister to Mexico yesterday. His credentials are to the Juarez Government, which he is instructed to recognize, provided it be in a condition to maintain itself. He leaves for Vera Senor Mata, sent to Washington as the Minister of Juarez, will soon leave for New-Orleans, where he will await the result of Mr. McLane's mission.

The Senate also confirmed Mr. Charles L. Weller as Postmaster of San Francisco, and Mr. J. W. Mandeville as Surveyor-General of California.

By the arrival of the steamships Jura and Europa from Liverpool we have three days' later European news. There are rumors of changes in the English Ministry. It was reported in Paris that Baron Hubner, the Austrian Minister, had threatened to demand his passports if satisfaction were not given for a violent war article in the Presse. For this article the Presse received a warning, at the instance, however, it is said, of the Papal Nuncio in Paris. This caused a slight but temperary advance in the funds. The Vienna correspondent of The Times says that in consequence of information which left no doubt of the warlike intentions of France the Austrian army is about to be placed on a war footing. In Turkey there is a movement of troops toward the Danube, and the new Hospodar has declared a union of the Principalities. The English campaign in the Oude was ended on the 8th ult. by the surrender of the rebel leaders and the destruction of the forts. Console closed at 95%. Cotton had advanced. Breadstuffs were dull.

HOW CANADA IS GOVERNED. Since 1841 the forms of Constitutional Govern-

ment in Canada have not been openly disregarded, if we except a period of some months during the Administration of Sir Charles, afterward Lord Metcalfe, during the latter part of 1843 and the first eight months of 1844. At that time, for a period of nine months, the Governor-General took upon himself the administration of the Government, by the aid of a single Minister, a Secretary of State. The conduct of the Governor-General, so far from meeting the disapproval of the Home Government, to whom he owed his appointment, and by whom he was liable to be recalled. was rewarded with a peersge. So far back as 1791, the appearance of the constitutional system was granted to the Canadians; the Canadas being divided into two Provinces, and a Representative Assembly accorded to each. The benefits of the representative sys tem were, however, neutralized by the creation of Second Chamber, the members of which owed their nomination to the Crown. The result was the growth of an oligarchy in both Provinces, the executive officers of the Government using the machinery of the Second Chamber to check the democratic aspirations of the representatives of the people. In this way, the latter, who, for years

shadow and a same. This abnormal state of things, so utterly opposed to the British practice of holding the Ministry responsible to the Legislature, begat an opposition, which only ended in the catastrophe of 1837-8. Now, all this is changed. Since 1841 the Pro-

vine al Administration has been required to com-

mand a majority in the Legislative Assembly; and with the exception already noted, the forms of constitutional government have not been openly violated. The Governor-General no doubt possesses almost omnipotent power in the choice of Ministers, and can do much to assist any party in whose favor his influence may be cast in periods of political crisis. To a great extent, the machinery of the Government is moved by external influences. In Lombard street the Canadas are looked upon as a field for the exploitation of the capitalists and usurers of the mother country. No direct revenue can be raised from them, it is true, but their Government may, to a very great extent, be carried on for the benefit of English money-brokers and stock-jebbers. The influence of the latter is very great in England, where the moneyed aristocracy unites with the landed aristocracy to control the Government. Mr. Hinks, who was first Minister in Canada, from 1851 to 1854, we have it on unquestionable authority, owed his appointment as Governor of the Windward Islands, in 1855, to the influence exerted in his favor in Downing street, by the Barings, the financial agents of the Province, who, doubtless, had their own reasons for this act of practical gratitude. Another financial Minister, Mr. Cayley, was rejected by his old constituents, in one of the westernmost counties of the Province, in the Winter of 1857; but orders coming out from Lombard street, from the House of Baring Brothers, that he must be retained in the Government, another constituency had to be found for him. Rejected in the west, he found a refuge in the extreme east of Upper Canada, where a pliable and obliging member of the Legislative Assembly was induced to resign in his favor. If any financial emissary was to be sent from England to the Canadas-if there is any "chisseling," as our Canadian neighbors term it, to be done-he goes straightway to the Government House and lave his plans before Sir Edmund Head, or whoever may be the occupant of the gubernatorial office for the time being. Thus did the last representative from England of the Grand Trunk Railway interests; and, in the quietest way possible, he succeeded in obtaining the deferring of the Government lien, which was then the first mortgage for some \$14,000,000 upon the road, till after all other parties interested, stockholders and bondholders, shall get six per cent on their investment.

But the greatest stroke of financial policy which has yet been attempted in British America, is now in the act of being effected. The Federation of all the five British American Provinces, our readers are aware, has been proposed. Such a scheme, one would naturally suppose, originated in considerations arising out of the future welfare of these Provinces. Nobody would suspect that the project originated in a desire to give value to certain railway stock: that it was neither more nor less than a stock-jobbing operation; that the future of British America was to be made the plaything of the holders of Grand Trunk Railway stock and bonds! Yet, that such is the case we have the authority of a gentleman in London, who is fully cognizant of the secret springs of the movement, for saying so. The case is this: The eastern section of the Grand Trunk Railway-all below Richmend, opposite Montreal-is unprofitable; and, as things stand at present, must forever re main so. The portion of this section which lies between Quebec and St. Thomas hardly earns sufficient to purchase oil to lubricate the engines. Sometimes it is open and sometimes closed. To make the matter worse, this profitless section is being extended as far as Trois Pistoles; and when it is completed, the keeping of the road open between that point and Richmond will impose a burden upon the paying sections of the line which must reader the whole stock unprofitable, and leave but a slender chance for the bondholders. It would be a master stroke of policy to get rid of this of the line. But how is it to be done? By constructing an inter-colonial railroad, connecting Canada, New-Brunswick and Nova-Scotia. In that case, the burdensome section of the Grand Trunk, below Richmond, won't serve for a link in the inter-colonial line; and there would thus be a chance of the present proprietors getting rid of it. But an inter-colonial railroad is not required to connect Provinces whose settlements do not approach within hundreds of miles of one another, and between which there are scarcely any trade connections. A pretext for the construction of an inter-colonial railroad must, therefore, be found; and what so good, for that purpose, as a Federal union? Such is the secret history of the proposed federal union of the British American Provinces; such the way in which the fate of five Provinces is proposed to be made subservient to the interests of dealers in railway stocks and bonds: Among the parties thus interested are several well paid officers, ready to give to the British Government the most satisfactory reasons why, on military grounds, the proposed inter-colonial railroad should be built, and consequently why its construct tion should be sided by the British exchequer. Sir E. B. Lytton has nothing to say against the project; but money is scarce, in these times of Indian insurrections, and he has the Address to get rid of the Colonial Deputation with all the ease of a man whom no inducement can bring to work over three hours a day. Grand Trunk Railroad influences are sufficiently powerful, in the Canadian Government, to secure in that quarter ready assistance to the project; and whatever they can do to further it will certainly be done. But is it on such a founda-

tion as this that a great Northern Empire can be The present Inspector General of Canada, Mr. Galt, appears to be no unfit instrument for the work required of him. He has been mixed up with Grand Trunk Railway contracts, as a member of the firm of Gzowski & Co., and is not now free from the suspicion of deriving profits from that source. He was charged with using the priority of intelligence which he possessed of the amalgamation of the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad with the Grand Trunk, to make \$200,000 by the rise of the former stock; and although the statement was denied, it does not appear that the public in Canada, where the facts were best known, was convinced by the denial. This gentleman, we observe, proposes to convert the Canadian debt-to exchange the outstanding debentures, which generally bear six per cent interest, for consols, payable after twenty years, at the option of the Govarnment, and bearing five per cent interest-on which operation, at one per cent commission, somebody would make together, were in direct and constant opposition to \$200,000. From Mr. Galt's antecedents, a loudly applauded his assault upon Senator Sumner genius as he of The New the Executive Government, were reduced to a little judicious vigilence would seem not regarded him in their secret souls as having been more held their peace.

question of converting some \$50,000,000 of public debt. The strangest part of the scheme is the proposal that the Canadian Government should assume certain Municipal debentures. to the extent of some \$8,000,000, with the possibility of the amount increasing to \$12,000,000; thus needlessly adding that amount to the direct debt of the Province, an operation which can hardly fail to produce an injurious effect upon its credit. However, as there is at present 15 or 16 per cent difference in the value of these Municipal and the Government debentures, there is ample scope in the exercise of that species of financial talent with which Mr. Inspector General Galt is generally credited. He is reported to have acquired a large fortune in an incredibly abort time.

THE CODE OF HONOR. In the account given by Mr. Butterworth of his interview with Sickles just preceding the killing of Key, he states that he found Sickies lying on his face in great agony, and that after hearing from him the cause of his distress, he tried to console bim with the ides that Key's alleged invasion of his marital rights might be husbed up and kept from the public. Sickles is represented as answering that he wished it could, but that it was impossible, as the story was already known to all the 'niggers' in Washington. To which Mr. Butterworth represents himself as replying that if so Sickles needed no advice; as a man of honor he knew what to do. It is a very interesting question in a social and

meral point of view, and it may yet become a very

grave one in a legal point of view, what did Mr.

Butterworth intend by this answer! Mr. Sickles. it appears, in his agony and distress of mind, very properly distrusted his own judgment, and appears to have appealed to Butterworth, not so much for sympathy as in reliance on his sound judgment and cool command of his feelings. That Butterworth was not carried away by sympathy and concern for his agonized friend, and that he was entirely able to command his feelings is evident from his interview with Key, immediately after, whom he appears to have met as usual, interchanging with him the compliments of the day with perfect equanimity. Now, is it possible to suppose that the cool-headed friend, appealed to by a man suffering under the highest pitch of agonizing passion, intended by his answer above quoted to stimulate his excited friend to sally forth and to assinate Key? From the fact that almost instantly after receiving this answer Sickles, instead of asking Butterworth to carry a challenge for him, rose up and armed himself with three pistols, it would seem as though he so understood it; and from the fact that Butterworth stood by and saw Sickles fire three times, hitting Key, who was unarmed, each time, beside holding his pistol at his head, and snapping it at him as he lay wounded on the ground-from these facts the conclusion can hardly be avoided that Butterworth considered Sickles as doing as a man of honor should. If Sickles had totally mistaken Butterworth, it is hardly to be supposed that Butterworth would have stood by so quietly. He might, perhaps, have allowed the first shot, partly because he was taken by surprise, partly because from Key's putting his hand in his coat he might suppose him armed. But after Key had thrown his opera glass at Sickles, there was no room for any such supposition, and the perfect quietness with which this selected guardian of Mr. Sickles's honor continued to look on and to allow the man who had just consuited him as to what he ought to do, to shoot at an unarmed man lying wounded on the ground and begging for mercy-this conduct seems to show a conclusion which Butterworth has never said anything to avoid or rebut-that he considered his friend Sickles to be acting as a man of honor

should. Now, THE TRIBUNE, as everybody knows, is no partisan of the code of honor, as it is commonly called. Yet we wish to do justice to all men, and to all systems; and, surely, the so-called code of honor has crimes enough of its own to snewer for, ithout being made responsible for those which, so far from sanctioning, it utterly abhors and repudiater. The code of honor, so far from ever demanding assassination—that is to say the act of killing by surprise, and without any opportunity for defense-regards with scorn and loathing, as the hight both of meanness and cowardice, any attack upon an unarmed man, or anything in the slightest degree approaching to an encounter upon unequal terms, so far as relates to weapons, position, or notice. Mr. Sickles, in his high state of mental excitement, might have overlooked this. The code of bonor, though it utterly repudiates assassination, does sometimes excuse the killing of grievous offender taken in the fact, and possibly Mr. Sickles, from the excitement under which he was laboring, might, under the code of honor, be allowed to escape the two brands above specified: but this is an excuse which will not avail the man, if such there be, who first stimulates to assassination under the idea that honor demands it, and then coolly stands by and sees that assassination committed.

There are two reasons why the code of honor will not telerate assassination, nor even an attack upon an unarmed man no matter what the provocation may be. The duel, as is well known, had, however it has been abused, a respectable origin. It was a continuation of the ancient feudal custom of settling certain disputed questions in civil and criminal trials by wager of battle. The wager of battle was based on the natural and popular, and we may even say religious, however mistaken, idea tha God thus appealed to would defend the right. He who believed himself to have right and who trusted that he had God on his side, would scorn to take any private or human advantage, such as might give cause to say that his triumph had been secured not by the decision of Providence in his favor, but by his own act and contrivance. Now, it may be said that this is an obsolete, and. with our present lights, an absurd idea. No doubt it is so. But so is the whole code of honor, so far as relates to the use of the duel at all-an appeal only kept up by a tradition which is just as imperative as to this point of notice and perfect equality of arms and position, as it is as to any point of the whole procedure. But this is not all. The universal sentiment of fair play repudiates with scorn the idea of surprise. Even in the barbarous South-West, where all other formalities of the duel are dispensed with, it is held essential that the man of honor should distinguish himself from a vulgar, lurking assassin by sending word to his intended victim that he means to shoot him at sight. What killed Preston S. Brooks was the just impression, of which he could not get rid, that the very persons who most

to be out of place, when there is a guilty of a mean-spirited and cowardly act. However the friends of Sickles may set ap in his case certain reasons why he ought not, so far as the killing of Key is conserned, to be placed in that category, they must be content to excuse him as a poor fellow whose agenizing madness was stimulated into action by ambiguous if not wicked advice-it is abourd to attempt to put him forward as having acted the part of a man of henor.

As between the suppression of such offenses as

the law does not notice, or not with sufficient severity, by the use of the duel or by resort to assesse nation, the balance of advantage would seem to be entirely on the side of the former. It certainly has this in its favor, that it gives opportunity for explanation, and that it does not risk the killing a man for offenses which he did not commit. Key might have been a very guilty man; but if the practice of putting people to death on the strength of an entirely ex parte investigation, conducted in secret by a person too much excited to judge coolly, and who may have private reasons of his own for coming comewhat hastily to an unfavorable conclusion-if upon the strength of such investigation men are to be shot down in the streets, entirely innocent persons may occasionally suffer the fate of Key. Jealousy, it is well known, does not tend to give either clearness or coolness to the judgment; nor are husbands, maddened by the idea of disgrace, fit persons to be intrusted, of all people in the world, with the office of being first judges in their own cases, and then executioners.

Mr. Key may have been a very guilty man, but the evidence of it is as yet confined to the breast of Mr. Sickles. It is said that Mrs. Sickles has made a confession; but what is the extent of that confession? Who knows? Neither does it seem quite so safe to allow a man to put another man to death on the strength of a wife's confession, however explicit, made under duress, and without being confronted with the party implicated.

By the law of the land, Mr. Sickles is unques tionably guilty of murder. He has done the act not of a law-abiding citizen, and even less of a man of honor. The most that can be said of him is, that he acted under the double influence of vehement passion and very bad advice. We may pity him, we may excuse him, but to set him up as man of honor, and therein as a model to be imi tated, is pressing the matter rather too far. Sickles may be excused, but if Butterworth really advised the assassination, his case stands on totally different grounds.

TYBTAEUS SOUTH.

It has been for a long time a vexed question whether our Southern friends could or could not sing. They produced much-cotton, rice, sugar, and immense domineering Legislative influencebut could they produce poetry? They should. "Twas the land of the South, 'twas the land of the sun. The ingenuous youth of that ilk had ample time for their guitaring and strumming-they had always "a nigger" to fetch to them their lyresthey had "nigger" if necessary to tune thembut such is the general tendency of mankind to relapse into indolence, that the songs, though soft and sweet, were not strong, and in fact were mostly silly. To the critical mind it is a bother to know why Southern poetry should be so uniformly and flatly bad. Poetry deals, or should deal for the most part, with the domestic affectionsparent and child-weddings-funerals. But how is it that the South, check full of the domestic affections, should get no fairer, fuller and more melodious utterance? Having studiously collated Southern poetry, we do not remember a single piece intituled "Lines to my Daughter, whom I am Compelled to Sell"-" Farewell to Dick, who has Just Been Disposed of for \$1,000"-To My Colored Cousin"-" To My Little Brown Sister," Somehow the Bards of the South miss these interesting subjects. But when they do write. Pheebus forfend that we should not do them all possible justice! There is a bard who writes for The Charleston Mercury, who produces beautiful poetry. He signs himself "OLLA." Perhaps HE is a SHE !

The poem which has compelled us to make these most magnanimous declarations, was occasioned by the arrival of the steamer Brooklyn in Southern waters. No sooner did this gallant craft appear at Beaufort, than the lyre was brought out and the poet of The Charleston Mercury cleared his throat. He commenced in medias res as follows:

"Noble Brooklyn! all hall to your arrival!" And not to have it misunderstood, the lyrist adds. " In the bosom of our beautiful bay." Here he warms up and shouts in an Anacreontic

mood: "With a crew so gallant and convivial." The reader, if he be a critical one, as all readers

are supposed to be, will notice that "arrival" and convivial" are hardly allowable rhymes; but you cannot restrain a Southern Bard. We must now go on with this beautiful little Epic. She has arrived. Does she have on board a melancholy crew, like that ghastly one which peopled the forlors decks of "The Ancient Mariner"? Not a bit of it. We have seen that the crew arrived in a gallant and convivial" condition-and what is the result? We will state it in the words of the poet. "Our girls are deeply in love With the beautiful ship as she rides"—

-And being in love with the ship, they are, of course, in love with the crew, who are said to be " ---- gallants in whom they confide."

The bard here passes from the amorous and affectionate to the biographical, and pays a neat compliment to the commander of this beautiful ship-ofbattle. He refers in a nest but just way to the services of this chief, who has

"Recorded his name on the leaf Indellibly marked with her gore."

"Gore" is here, for the first time, proclaimed to be a a sort of " indellible ink"-for the first time. we mean, since the awful and tragic non-aqueous manipulation of Lady Macbeth. Gore is, anywhere, a bad thing; but "gore" that is "indeli ble" is about the most poisonous pigment yet discovered or announced.

And now the Poet screws up the strings of his fiddle at least a note and a half, and, as becomes a conscientious American, thinks of the Flag of His Country. Hear him with awe, admiration and de-

Bright banter, may your stars never fade. But shine through the tempest of war." But what is a banner unless it is defended? Therefore the poet adds:

"No foes combined shall degrade, But be buried from her bulwarks afar." We call this good. And now for pathos. Bring out your handkerchiefs!

"Gallant shift, shall we see you no more. Our bright waters never again to embrace? Soft hearts may be touched to the core Deep wounds are bard to efface."

Fact, again. Now, with this evidence of Southern poetical ability before the world, we trust that all such carping critics and defamers of Southern genius as he of The New-Orleans Delta will forever

A NORTHERN COLORED QUESTION. As we do not believe in Slavery, so we do set believe in its fruits. As we are not disposed to be telerant of a system which robs the black man w all his rights south of Mason and Dixon's Line, a we are not inclined to favor one which deprive him of a part of them at the north of that bounds ry. As we wish to see the worser wrong get ri of by those whom it most concerns, for their on sakes as well as for the sake of those who are the chief sufferers, so shall we be glad to do our put toward the abolition of the lesser wrongs white have grown up out of the greater one. What me can say less who has ever opened his mouth the Southern Slavery!

We believe, moreover, that the best basis of gon citizenship is a sound education, and we have are faith in that principle of democracy which secure such education to every child born in the State The more schools, the fewer grog shops; the mon teachers, the fewer turnkeys; the more culture, the less barbarism; the more reading and writing the less vice. For we do not believe that a people among whom a good, sound education is widely dit fused will be a vicious or a degraded people. It is the right of the citizen, by virtue of his citizen ship, to receive such an education, and it is the day of the State to provide it. It is the duty of the State to provide it for the child of the poor man as well as the child of the rich; for the child foreign birth as we'll as the child of native birth and for the black child as well as the white one It is a disgrace to our civilization and to se democracy that we should make any distinction, But we do make it. The influence of Slavery

which runs through and corrupts all our insult. tions, does not leave this one untouched. We m. tematically deprive the black man of the opports. nity of equal culture with the white; we deliber ately withhold from him the humanizing and mot ening influences of education; we practically dear him the right which we theoretically maintain be longs to all men, and then we reproach him that be is not thrifty, not enlightened, not virtuous, but idle, indigent, and imbecile. Doing our best to make him a bad citizen, we complain of him, and reproach him for not being a good one. If a complaint and repreach are not justified by the fact, it is from no merit of ours, but because the black man is so used to oppression that the virte of moral resistance is strengtheued by use, and he does not altogether succumb to the hard fate win which he is visited.

There are in this city about nine thousal colored adults, one thousand of whom are tare on real estate to the value of nearly a million and a half of dollars, and to this amount may be added nearly two millions of personal e tate and money in bank. Probably not less the three thousand more of these people, who are as owners of real estate, are heavily taxe as householders and rent payers, so that the proportion of the whole number who pay taxes ! the support of our public schools is quite as large if not larger, in proportion to the whole number than that of the white population. Since the en ganization of the Board of Education the expendture for school-houses has amounted to \$1,600,000.

The expenditure for colored schools, during the same peried, has amounted to \$1,000, the Old Put lie School Society having assigned to the Board to of the school-houses now used for colored children The actual expenditure then has been as 1.6001 I in favor of the whites, while the proportion colored children to white attending the schools! as 1 to 40. Nor does the injustice end here. To estimated number of colored children (from b census of 1850) is 3,000, and the average atter ance on public schools and corporate schools, ported by school funds, is 1,153, giving an average of attendance to the whole number of 1 to 261. The estimated number of white children is 159,000 and the average attendance upon the public at corporate schools is 46,684, or to the who number as 1 to 3.40. From this t appears that in proportion to the while number there are nearly 25 per cent more i colored children than of white, who avail thesselves of the advantages of education provided by the State. But a large proportion of the white didren attend private and Catholic parochial schools and with this addition, even, it appears that is proportionate attendance of the two classes ! schools of all kinds, is about equal. With an opti desire then for education, and with, at least, equi if not greater proportionate taxation, the expent ture of the Board, as we have shown above, is 1 to 1.600. This remarkable difference is con accounted for. The school-houses for the will are in situations where the price of lots is his and on the buildings themselves no expenditures spared to make them commodious and elegat such as the halls of learning should be, where State, with a paternal care, provides for the edus tion of the rising generation. The schools for is blacks, on the contrary, are nearly all, if si all, old buildings, generally in filthy and degrate neighborhoods, dark, damp, small and cheerist safe neither for the morals nor the health of the who are compelled to go to them, if they go uf where, and calculated rather to repel than to tract them. For such a state of things there is a course no excuse other than the very poor one an unreasonable prejudice, and an ealightened si prosperous people should be ashamed of being governed by it as to make the least possible retar in educational privileges to those who are me heavily taxed for them. It is breaking the proces to the ear as well as to the hope to assert the lep supposition of equality while the logical comtency only is maintained of granting a pass' quality of instruction to those who are held by their very isolation, to be of a poorer quality humanity. We are glad to see that the Special Commission in relation to the common of this city call particular attention to this can things in their annual report to the Gornal Either the colored children should be as well

In enumerating the few good acts of the XXX Congress, we neglected to note the passage of resolution instructing the Superintendent of Capitol to remove the deaks which have been fore obstructed business in the House of Rep sentatives. The gratifying majority, 103 Years 73 Nays, by which the resolution was carried, courages the hope that this reform will be allow a fair trial next year, and we have no fears the desks will be replaced after the House once have accustomed itself to do without The advantages of the new order of things Congress, old in other legislative bodies -art

cated as the white, or, if any distinction is make

should extend to the taxes as well as the circ

tional advantages. But no well-governed

can afford to do otherwise than to secure to

who are to become hereafter its men and war

every possible inducement and facility to

gence and virtue.